

(Newport News) DAILY PRESS 16 October 1975

# Colby Says Secrecy Removal May Restore CIA Confidence

WILLIAMSBURG — A "wipe out at the top" of the CIA was called for here Wednesday and the agency director said he would "have no great problems" with leaving the job.

William Colby, the CIA director, responded to sharp criticism of New York Times reporter Seymour Hersh as they both appeared before the Convention of Associated Press Managing Editors.

Colby said he believes removing the "total veil of secrecy" from intelligence operations will help to restore public confidence in the CIA. At the end of the hearings which are designed to do just that, Colby indicated that "a new face" might be good for the agency.

"That would be no great problem for me," he said.

But Hersh wants even more. He said faith in the agency will not be fully restored until Richard Helms, former CIA director, is recalled as Ambassador to Iran and forced to face the informal charges of perjury which have been made against him.

Hersh is the investigative reporter who wrote the first story about domestic spying by the CIA.

Although he believes that Colby has been truthful with him (when he will talk to him) since he became director, he feels that because of his connection with the agency over a period of years he should be replaced soon.

Colby said he issued directives in 1973 to stop all activities which exceeded the CIA charter. Those had included the domestic activities and assassination plots in foreign countries.

The CIA is doing very little covert activity now, according to Colby, but instead is concentrating on gathering readily available information and analyzing it for other government departments.

Another function is to estimate the future, he said. With new technology it is easy to know how many missiles Russia has, but the important task is to estimate how many they will have in the future.

Colby recalled that in the past the CIA has not even been looked at, but since

Vietnam and Watergate the public is insisting the government explain what it is doing.

He appealed to the managing editors to handle the CIA story in "a responsible manner" so there will not be an investigation in five years on why the intelligence program was killed.

The publicity centering around the CIA is a "total new concept," Colby said. "There is not another intelligence agency head in the world who would have to speak to the Associated Press Managing Editors."

Hersh said the problem of the CIA is a "question of basic integrity and honesty. There's a double standard at work when Colby asks us to be responsible."

Singling out the Watergate story, Hersh said there were four overt acts of the CIA within two weeks of the initial break-in which did as much to keep the lid on the story as anything the White House did.

It was more than a year before Colby turned any of the information the CIA had gathered over to the prosecutors, he said.